



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Walla Walla District

Information Paper

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WETLAND DELINEATION REQUIREMENTS

The Regulatory Branch of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages applicants for Department of the Army permits to hire environmental consultants to perform preliminary wetland delineations of their property. We find the use of consultants reduces the time required to conduct delineations and expedites this portion of the permit process.

1. **Information required:** Wetland delineations must be prepared according to the "Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual", dated January 1987 (1987 Manual). They must contain enough documentation to support the wetland boundary. At the minimum, all delineations must contain the following:

a. **Delineation map.** The map should show the size, location, configuration and boundary of wetlands in relation to identifiable physical characteristics such as roads, fence lines, waterways, or other identifiable features. Where different types of wetlands exist on a site, the map should show the location and acreage of each wetland type. A scale of 1" = 100' is usually adequate. No map should exceed a scale of 1" = 200'. The map may be submitted on large sheets of paper. If the delineation is mapped on smaller sheets, match lines should be used to show how the sheets connect. All data points and wetland boundaries must be staked in the field prior to Corps inspection. Data points should be numbered to correspond to numbered data forms. The map must also include:

1. Project name.
2. Property lines, project boundary, and boundary of the area investigated for the delineation. In some cases, these may be the same lines.
3. Delineated wetland boundary line.
4. Name and location of adjacent waterways.
5. Data point locations corresponding to the data forms and points staked in the field.
6. North arrow and scale.
7. Date.
8. Name, address and telephone number of property owner and person conducting the delineation.

b. **Data forms.** An approved data form is attached. A separate, numbered form must be submitted for each data point and referenced to the delineation map. The data for each sample location must clearly show the basis for determining if the sample location is wetland or upland. The number of sample locations will vary depending on the size and shape of the wetlands at the site, the degree of difficulty in differentiating wetlands and uplands, and the width of transition zones.

c. Additional Information. Additional information often can expedite a wetland verification. Helpful data include topographic maps, ground photographs, aerial photographs, and an explanation of how dominant vegetation was determined. This information should be succinct with only the relevant information presented.

2. Approval procedures: Wetland delineations will be reviewed by the Corps for compliance with the 1987 Manual, the August 27, 1991 memorandum for implementing the 1987 Manual, and the March 6, 1992 memorandum on clarification and interpretation of the 1987 Manual. Delineations not meeting these requirements will be returned to the applicant for more information. We normally field verify wetland delineations for accuracy and consistency. The Corps will make the final determination of jurisdictional wetlands and notify the applicant with a letter and copy of the final map.

3. Where to find the 1987 Manual and guidance: The 1987 Manual along with the memorandums and updated user notes may be found on the Internet at: <http://www.usace.army.mil> To access the documents, select Services to the Public, Regulatory/Permits, Technological and Biological Resources and choose publication number WRP-Y-87-1. The 1987 Manual may also be found at: <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/wetlands/pdfs/wlman87.pdf> In addition to these websites, the 1987 Manual may be obtained from the National Technical Information Service (703) 487-4650 and requesting Document Number ADA 176734/21NE. Both memorandums may be obtained by calling Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers at (509) 527-7150.